

DHHS Children's' Behavioral Health Services Services for Children with PDD Disorders

Children diagnosed with PDD Disorders qualify for Children's MR/Autism Services depending on the results of individual functional assessment testing, described below:

In order to qualify for Children's MR/Autism Services, a child must have a DSM IV diagnosis of:

- Mental Retardation
- One of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders (Autistic Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, Asperger's Disorder, Rett's Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder)
- If the child has one of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders they must also have been assessed as having an adaptive behavior score of at least 2 standard deviations below the mean on the composite score
- Children not eligible for MR/Autism services are very likely to be eligible for mental health services.
- Children currently receiving MR/Autism services who do not meet these criteria will be grandfathered for a year of transition to other services for which they are eligible. -

The diagnosis must be made by one of the following:

- Pediatric neurologist
- Child and adolescent psychiatrist
- Behavioral pediatrician
- Licensed clinical psychologist

The diagnosis needs to include:

- Detailed developmental history
- Use of standardized rating scales (such as the ADI-R, or the ADOS-G) using multiple informants
- Cognitive Assessment
- Speech and language assessment
- Assessments and treatment should involve multidisciplinary teams

A functional assessment is used to determine level of service needs:

- Assessment tools: the Vineland and/or the Adaptive Behavior Scale
- In order to qualify for Section 24 Children's Day Habilitation services, the child must score two standard deviations below the mean on the composite score.
- The Department reserves the right to request re-evaluation of a child's functional assessment.